

**SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, STATE OF OSUN, AND VISITOR
OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. GBOYEGA
OYETOLA, AT THE 8TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES OF THE
UNIVERSITY HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019**

Protocols:

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you all to the 8th Convocation Ceremonies of Osun State University for the conferment of First, Postgraduate and Honorary Degrees in my capacity as Visitor to this great Citadel of Learning.

I would also like to specially welcome the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, to our state and to this Convocation event.

By his presence here today, Vice President Osinbajo is the highest serving public officer that UNIOSUN has had to host in her short but eventful 12 years of existence as a Centre of Higher Learning.

I am honoured to attend this 8th convocation and to address this distinguished gathering comprising Members of the Governing Council, the Senate, the Congregation, Eminent Guests, Staff, Students, Revered Parents, Well-Wishers and Friends of the University for the first time as the Visitor to this University. You will all kindly recall that I attended the last convocation as Governor-Elect.

I congratulate the graduands here today for the successful completion of their programmes and graduation. They are young men and women who have been baked in the best tradition of UNIOSUN and whose lives and accomplishments hold great promise for The State of Osun, Nigeria, and the world.

I also congratulate their parents and guardians for their huge investment in their children and wards and for donating them to the world.

Distinguished graduands, there is no gainsaying the fact that this is a great day for you as you have transited from the class of students to responsible persons who are ready to shape and transform the world.

Your university has imbued you with analytical skills, competencies, knowledge, attitude and character during your years of study. The world is

waiting for you to employ all these to contribute to humanity and improve the society.

As you are all aware, the certificates that you will receive from this university are awarded to you on the basis of character and learning. In the order of importance, character comes before learning. It is character that opens the door to knowledge and keeps it open until you completed your courses and earned a degree.

The State of Osun Omoluabi ethos of hard work, discipline, decency, selflessness and good neighbourliness which your university professes has been impacted on you to make you responsible members of society.

The world is replete with persons of talents but is looking for persons of character, who are in short supply. I therefore enjoin you to be good ambassadors of the university and the state by displaying the highest level of character anywhere you find yourselves.

Your university and The State of Osun are waiting for you to enter into the World Hall of Fame in your chosen endeavours.

As you are all aware, our government has resolutely demonstrated its commitment to rebuilding and repositioning the university. We shall continue to support the university financially and in all spheres as we have demonstrated through improved funding since the inception of our Administration.

We sincerely note and appreciate the exemplary leadership and sacrifices of the Chancellor, Dr. (Mrs.) Folorunso Alakija, the Governing Council and its able Chairman, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, and the prudent and transparent management under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Labode Popoola.

Modern Universities are cradles of knowledge for world order and sustainable development. I challenge the university to join the comity of global universities to adopt best practices in its operations. Let us resolve that never again will our university be a part of unnecessary disruptions that rob the nation's universities of their competitive edge in the global arena.

The university should find the resolve to continue to be and remain a Centre of Excellence. It has all it takes to be the Best State University in Nigeria and use the achievement as a ladder to emerge the nation's and Africa's best. UNIOSUN must find its place and space in the World Universities

Webometrics Ranking ladder. The university must proudly fulfil its tripartite mandate of teaching, research and community service.

As government strives to provide the resources and enabling environment, the university has a responsibility to efficiently engage in teaching, cutting-edge research and society-impacting community services.

The State of Osun has demonstrated its capacity as an award-winning state through innovation and adoption of best practices in its operations. I invite UNIOSUN to produce competitive graduates that will maintain and sustain this enviable feat.

Alumni are the greatest assets and source of support of a university. I therefore charge the university to cultivate its alumni, follow their progress and encourage them to give back to their alma mater.

I would also like to urge the alumni, the landlords of UNIOSUN, to own their university and strive to make it one of the world's best.

I congratulate our honorary graduands, who are distinguished Nigerians and builders of a new Nigeria, on the honour bestowed on them by the university today. Their invaluable contributions to society are what qualify them for these worthy honours. I am confident that, with these honours, the university shall benefit from their philanthropic gestures.

I once again congratulate today's graduands and their parents and guardians on the feats they have attained today.

I would like to once again thank Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, all our distinguished guests and friends of the university, for gracing the 8th Convocation Ceremonies of this great Citadel.

I wish you all a safe journey back to your respective destinations.

Thank you.